Revival of sick units

884. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks and financial institutions in the coun try are not sharing their responsibi lity for the revival of the sick units in the country;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also expressed that the burden imposed on banks for the re vival of the sick units should be shared by the financial institutions also; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what further step$_s$ are proposed to be taken to put responsibility on banks as well as financial institutions to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALET-RO): (a) to (c) Public Sector banks and financial institutions are already assisting in the revival of sick, but potentially viable industrial units, keeping in view the guideline,, laid by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. They also share responsibilities as appropriate, in terms of the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Soeical Provisions) Act, 1985

Drug smuggling

885. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state-

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Novel ways of drug smuggling unearthed" as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 13th October, 1988-

(b) whether the Enforcement agencies have found heroin hidden inside some equipments; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to unearth gang$_s$ of drug smugglers in the country?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.IIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the recent seizures of drugs at Bombay, novel methods of concealing the heroin and smuggling through a sealed tin of pine-applr slices, car fuel filters, an artificial leg, inside a T.V. picture tube, etc. by drug traffickers has come to the notice of the enforcement authorities.

Government have launched various aggressive countermeasures which, *inter alia,* include provision of deterrent punishment$_s$ against drug-related crimes, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised, reward scheme for officers and informers. The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum of 2 years for drug-related crimes. A number of operations arc also conducted against drug traffickers in the country by targeting intelligence on the$_m$ by the enforcement agencies. AH these are intended to immobilise drug traffickers effect lively. The matter i also kept unders constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.